



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400

Date: March 17, 2009

Mr. Richard Patterson, Director
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
Grey Towers National Historic Landmark
151 Grey Towers Drive
P.O. Box 188
Milford, PA 18337-0188

Dear Mr. Patterson: *Dick*

On February 10, 2009, Brad Onken and Karen Felton from this office visited Grey Towers National Historic Landmark to assess the status of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), *Adelges tsugae* and the elongate hemlock scale (EHS), *Fiorinia externa* populations and the possible need for treatment in 2009.

Both insect pests were found at varying densities on hemlock trees and shrubs throughout the site. Fortunately nearly all of the HWA populations have suffered high mortality rates caused by the extreme cold temperatures that occurred throughout much of Pennsylvania this past winter. As a result, no treatment to control this pest is necessary at this time. We will plan to closely monitor these populations in the coming months however as HWA often quickly rebounds within a year or two.

The EHS population densities ranged from none to moderately heavy on the hemlocks inspected. Generally, hemlock trees can withstand EHS populations of these densities when not under stress from other factors, such as HWA or droughty conditions. Given the poor survival of HWA, we anticipate hemlock health at Grey Towers should not be widely affected by EHS although some scattered trees may suffer some minor discoloration of older needles at the densities observed on site. We do not recommend treatment of hemlocks to control EHS except for infested trees or hedges of ornamental value. For such trees we would suggest either a horticultural oil spray or the use of dinotefuran (Safari® 20 SG) as a soil treatment around the base of the infested trees. If you would like to pursue such treatments our office will be happy to assist you.

If you have any questions or need any further assistance, please contact Brad Onken at 304-285-1546 or Karen Felton at 304-285-1556.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUECKEL
Field Representative, MFO

Cc: Elizabeth Hawke, Horticulturist, Grey Towers
Tim Marasco, PABOF



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Enclosures

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